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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/101, inter alia, the General Assembly called upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region; and encouraged all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. The Assembly also encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

2. In this connection, a note verbale dated 23 February 2007 was sent to all Member States requesting their views on the subject. To date, the Governments of Algeria, Chile, Iraq and Morocco have replied, and their responses are contained in section II below. Any replies received subsequently will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[26 June 2007]

1. Algeria is pleased to note the prevailing consensus within the General Assembly concerning the resolution on "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" which, along with the Barcelona Declaration of 28 November 1995, constitutes one of the few consensual reference documents on peace and security for the Mediterranean region.

2. Through its regular and sustained introduction of such a resolution, Algeria contributes to efforts to turn the Euro-Mediterranean basin into an area of peace and stability and demonstrates its unfailing attachment to the promotion of cooperation and solidarity in the region.

3. Accordingly, Algeria cannot but welcome the international community's espousal of the concept of collective security, currently shared by all States and by regional and international organizations. Algeria is convinced that the growing interest shown in this concept in various forums unquestionably lends weight to efforts to promote closer ties between peoples and establish peace and security through dialogue and mutual consultation.

4. The communal fate of the Mediterranean peoples has made it necessary and appropriate for them to pursue a dialogue that has steadily become deeper through an increasing number of shared initiatives designed to establish frameworks for concerted action between the two shores of the Mediterranean. These include the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Mediterranean Forum, the "Five plus Five" framework and the Mediterranean Dialogue of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Such initiatives in fact bear witness to a growing awareness of the close link between security in Europe and security and stability in the Mediterranean region.

5. Because security in Europe is intrinsically bound up with security in the Mediterranean region, we consider that the latter necessarily depends on security and stability on its southern shore. We are therefore convinced that any discussion of the future of the system of security in the European region must include the Mediterranean dimension and be premised on the indivisible character of security, which alone can safeguard the legitimate interests of all concerned in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

6. Algeria considers that the issue of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region must be addressed within a comprehensive framework, taking into account the political, security, economic and human interests and concerns of countries on both shores. Such an approach should reflect the Euro-Mediterranean States' respect for the principles of the sovereignty of States, their independence and territorial integrity, as well as the right to self-determination of the peoples in the region, just as it must imply full support for the principles of non-interference, non-intervention and renunciation of the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

7. From this point of view, it is necessary for the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to conduct policies designed not to confirm the divide between the North and the South but to promote solidarity in ways that can help to narrow the economic and social gaps between the two shores. This challenge faces all the countries of the region without exception, and they must take it up in a positive spirit of solidarity and openness.

8. Viewed from this angle, the ambitious project of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area must not be restricted to the free flow of goods and services, but must seek to prevent any further accentuation of the asymmetry that exists in the development of the northern and southern parts of the Mediterranean region. It should be gradually strengthened by the movement of persons and human exchanges, on the understanding that the ultimate goal of this undertaking is the advancement and all-round development of human beings.

9. The greatest threat to security in the region lies primarily in the worrying rise in inequalities between the two shores of the Mediterranean. So long as exclusion and marginalization affect entire segments of society on the southern shore, made

more vulnerable by the negative effects of structural adjustment programmes, free trade can hardly be expected to lead to the creation of shared prosperity, unless there is active cooperation in finding credible solutions to the key questions of development.

10. In the context of globalization, the countries of the southern shore had nourished the hope that growth and development would proceed at the same pace, provided that they made numerous sacrifices by way of painful adjustments and acceptance of unbearable social repercussions. They note today that the development gap between the North and the South continues to widen, triggering numerous spin-off phenomena such as rural exodus, migrations, violence and intolerance.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2007]

1. We agree that security in the Mediterranean is linked to European security and that the latter, in turn, is linked to international peace and security. In that context we support the efforts of the countries in that region to find solutions to their problems by peaceful means.

2. We join in the appeal to the Mediterranean States to adhere to all the instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.

Iraq

[Original: English]
[19 March 2007]

In view of Iraq's geographical situation and of its good political and economic relationship with the States of the Mediterranean region, Iraq supports all means of strengthening security and cooperation in the region. We would like to take this opportunity to mention that His Excellency the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs participated as a guest in the last Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[19 June 2007]

1. Morocco reaffirms that it is committed to the objectives of peace, stability and security in the Mediterranean region, and reiterates its call to all Mediterranean States to help achieve these strategic objectives and to promote political, economic, cultural and security cooperation as a channel of peace and stability in this sensitive region of the globe.

2. The Mediterranean is obviously not a homogenous area because of its economic disparities, its cultural differences and its political and military contrasts. Nevertheless, the overlap between problems of an economic, social, environmental and human nature requires that security be established in and around the vicinity through the kind of multisectoral cooperation that can once again make the Mediterranean the zone of peaceful exchanges it was originally intended to be.

3. The thinking and political action needed to build an area of common security linking Europe to the Mediterranean region, taking into account all the factors that make the peoples of the region so insecure, requires an overall approach to security that is multidimensional in nature and involves concerted action.

4. Indeed, the dangers facing most of the Mediterranean countries stem from the cumulative impact of the underdevelopment and the economic and political impasses weighing upon their stability, present and future.

5. The Millennium Development Goal commitments offer a new dynamic for reversing the decline in human development indicators and a chance that must be seized to eradicate poverty, improve the living conditions of the peoples of the southern shores of the Mediterranean, limit illegal immigration, and eradicate the spreading of transnational crime and illicit arms trafficking that are undermining the security of the people and the stability of the whole region.

6. Morocco, aware of its responsibilities as an active participant in the international political scene, is committed to promoting non-proliferation and disarmament by acceding and conforming to international and regional non-proliferation regimes and to arms limitation and disarmament agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Inhumane Weapons Convention and two of its Protocols and The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

7. Morocco's efforts and its undertaking to promote non-proliferation and disarmament have led the international community to assign it many responsibilities in this field, namely, its election to the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors (2006-2008); its chairmanship of meetings on The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles (2006-2007); its chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, during which it played a constructive consensus-building role and presided over the 2004 adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; its vice-chairmanship of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) of the General Assembly in 2005, in which it worked towards the adoption of an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace small arms and light weapons; and its presidency of the Conference on Disarmament (2004).

8. Strengthening confidence-building measures in the Mediterranean region necessarily requires strengthening dialogue, cooperation and consultation on regional issues and active solidarity between both sides of the Mediterranean.

9. In that context, Morocco is working tirelessly to enrich the conceptual framework of Euro-Mediterranean relations, to enhance its structures and mechanisms and to optimize its programmes. The rich and global framework for cooperation provided by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the content of which is multidimensional and diversified, could be strengthened and optimized for the

benefit of the countries around the Mediterranean by allocating the resources and means necessary for achieving the common goals.

10. The 5+5 Dialogue is an edifying structure and a mechanism designed to generate confidence-building measures between North and South and especially between South and South. In the latter case, it should make it possible to overcome the difficulties of subregional dialogue. It is effective insofar as it produces concrete projects, relating, inter alia to fighting terrorism, maritime surveillance, aviation security and civil defence of interest to States or both sides of the Mediterranean.

11. The contours of the future development of this Dialogue should, in Morocco's view, focus on adequacy of security agendas on both sides of the Mediterranean, adoption of a multidimensional approach to security covering all the challenges and threats facing the region, equal and balanced treatment of all the problems and challenges to regional security and identification of new operational synergies that could contribute to achievement of the goals of that Dialogue.

12. The Mediterranean approach taken by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) contributes to the Mediterranean Dialogue by its practical and specific dimension. Morocco has evaluated its experience of the support it gives to NATO-led operations in the Balkans. Accordingly, it can recommend several practical ways of improving North-South cooperation, inter alia in the area of disaster relief assistance and maritime cooperation in the military and civilian areas.

13. Morocco has participated in the International Security Force in Kosovo (KFOR), the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the current EUFOR-Operation ALTHEA (European Union-led peacekeeping force), thereby demonstrating that Morocco is a valuable partner of NATO and of the European security and defence policy. This military cooperation is a significant contribution to the efforts that the Kingdom of Morocco is making to maintain peace and security in the Mediterranean.

14. In an innovative and participatory approach intended to enhance the dynamics of the Dialogue, on 7 April 2006, Morocco hosted the first meeting of the NATO North Atlantic Council with the seven countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. This high-level meeting was a follow-up to the recommendation made at the Istanbul Summit in 2004 concerning the broadening and expansion of the Mediterranean Dialogue so as to combine strengthening of political consultation with intensification of practical cooperation with a view to dealing with all problems and challenges to regional security.

15. In an attempt to intensify Euro-Mediterranean cooperation Morocco hosted, on 8 and 9 September 2005, the eleventh seminar of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); the latter, instead of confining itself to the security approach that had prevailed for years, focused on the human and economic dimensions, thereby marking a qualitative shift in bilateral cooperation between OSCE and its partners south of the Mediterranean.

16. Positive proposals were made on how to turn migration into a factor of economic development, how to strengthen the Mediterranean partnership so as to combat illegal migration, how to safeguard migrants' rights while clarifying their duties and how to implement effective integration policies, thereby demonstrating that both shores of the Mediterranean have a common interest in turning this into a

dynamic process that will promote security, stability and development in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

17. It is in that spirit and in order to boost the dynamics of that North-South dialogue that Morocco hosted the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in Rabat on 10 and 11 July 2006; the purpose of that Conference was to help European and African partners work out lasting solutions to the challenge of migration. The Conference, the first of its type to offer a framework of consultation to senior officials from the countries of origin, transit and destination, was attended by representatives of 30 European States and 28 African States and led to the adoption of a political declaration and plan of action dealing with three issues that are fundamental for regulating migration: promotion of development, inter alia by establishing financial instruments to encourage co-development and developing knowledge and know-how; facilitation of legal migration by establishing cooperation programmes; and, lastly, countering of illegal migration by strengthening national border controls in countries of origin and transit, operational cooperation between police and the judiciary, assistance to victims, funding mechanisms and institutional framework for such actions.

18. Morocco, believing in the concept of the indivisibility of security, reiterates the need to expand the circle of Euro-Mediterranean solidarity towards other regions, especially Africa, which suffers from poverty, instability and disease, all of which foster conditions conducive to insecurity such as migration, refugee flows, illicit trafficking of arms, drugs and people, and transnational crime. That concept of "security for all" favours the adoption of a global, mutually agreed approach in the service of peace and security and based on responsibility shared between the countries on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

19. Morocco reaffirms that the only way to achieve comprehensive and effective security in the Mediterranean region is by holding discussions on three levels, national, regional and international. It should be noted that the approach taken by Morocco is similar to that taken by its European partners; both are based on the concept of comprehensive security, combining concern for security with humanitarian concerns.

20. Accordingly, Morocco calls for renewed, strengthened and strong commitment in the context of a comprehensive and multidimensional approach based on shared responsibility and mutual trust and resolutely turned towards uniting efforts so as to ensure that account is taken of all the challenges to common security.

21. Socio-economic development and strengthening of democracy are key words in the pursuit of the goals of peace and security in the Mediterranean region for, in the present context, a State whose sovereignty is respected and whose territorial integrity is preserved is most likely to be able to guarantee the safety of its people and of its neighbours.

22. Implementation of the Agadir regional agreement on free trade will doubtless mark an important step towards increasing prosperity and enhancing regional integration. Creation of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area — which is scheduled for 2010 — is becoming increasingly necessary.

23. The appearance of new global threats, such as terrorism, demand a multiplication of efforts to promote concerted and tight cooperation so as to respond appropriately to these challenges.

24. Morocco has itself been the target of several terrorist attacks and it is convinced that the same threat looms over all the members of the international community. Its actions to combat terrorism are three-dimensional: national, regional and international. It has acceded to the conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, has adopted a national law against terrorism and has collaborated closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

25. Given the complex nature and mobility of terrorism, which scoffs at borders and national identities, it is essential to switch from the framework of action outlined at the global level to a stronger and more appropriate regional approach. This subregional dimension could be based on the experience of the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue (inter alia the 5+5 Dialogue) and take greater account of the experience of the various countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, which have long been faced with the rise of hateful radicalism and have acquired expertise that should be tapped for this struggle.

26. Strengthened cooperation between Morocco and its Mediterranean neighbours, which led to the signing of a declaration at Nice, at the twelfth Conference of Ministers of the Interior of Western Mediterranean Countries (Algeria, France, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia), has increased cooperation as regards terrorism, the fight against organized crime, immigration and civil defence.

27. This strengthened cooperation is demonstrated by the conclusion of several bilateral agreements on security against terrorism and organized crime with countries around the Mediterranean, including Egypt, France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Spain. Other draft agreements are also being negotiated with Portugal and Turkey.

28. In addition, in May 2006, the French and Moroccan Ministries of the Interior signed a bilateral agreement concerning forensics, and the national parliament adopted Act. No. 43-05 on money-laundering. Article 38 of that Act provides for the freezing of assets of any person suspected of ties to a terrorist enterprise, which task is to be carried out by the yet-to-be created "financial intelligence unit", thereby dealing with the anomaly pointed out by the Counter-Terrorism Committee during its mission to Morocco in 2003.

29. At the operational level, Morocco has made significant advances as regards combating drug trafficking, particularly as regards cannabis. These efforts have been welcomed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in a document entitled "2006 World Drug Report" published in February 2007. Operational cooperation between Algeria, France, Morocco and Spain in the fight against terrorism has resulted in the dismantling of several terrorism networks in Morocco.

30. Morocco has also begun strengthening police cooperation by extending and sharing the network of liaison officers with France and Spain, setting up joint brigades (Gendarmerie Royale/Guardia Civil) to monitor the maritime borders, thereby reducing the number of migrants arriving on Spanish soil by more than 50 per cent, and has exchanged experts and training, inter alia on biological and nuclear terrorism, with its partners.

31. Morocco would like to draw attention to the need felt by the security services of countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean to be brought up to speed as regards personnel training and technological equipment in order to be able to deal with the new challenges posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime. Technical assistance such as that provided for in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is needed.

32. Given that the Sahelo-Saharan strip — an area which is known for arms trafficking and absence of border checks and which is therefore an ideal place for terrorist networks — causes it to be concerned about security, Morocco is committed to the fight with its strategic allies and it is open to constructive initiatives to develop that poor region and to promote stability in the entire Maghreb region. The Pan-Sahel Initiative — which provides technical assistance to the security forces of the Maghreb countries — the Flintlock exercise — which seeks to counter terrorism and crime conducted across borders, the Medshark/Majestic Eagle '04 exercise overseen by NATO, the Trans-Sahel Counter-Terrorism Initiative, which provides for a five-year programme of military, anti-terrorist and good governance assistance, are all programmes that contribute to the fight against terrorism.

33. Given the efforts it is known to have made in this area, Morocco was chosen to host the first meeting, in October 2006, of the Global Initiative to Counter Terrorism, the purpose of which was to establish a network of partner nations to avert and combat nuclear terrorism.

34. The meeting adopted two main documents, a declaration and terms of reference, which emphasize the main goals of the Initiative, namely, to improve accounting and security of nuclear and radioactive materials and enhance the security of nuclear facilities with a view to forestalling nuclear terrorist activities. The goal is also to promote information-sharing and assistance in the event of an incident, to commit not to grant safe haven to terrorists planning nuclear attacks and to organize seminars on related topics.

35. Morocco calls for the expansion of this initiative, which is notable for its pragmatic and operational approach and for being based on the existing international legal framework and is therefore an effective and appropriate contribution to the efforts to combat nuclear terrorism and an appropriate way to strengthen cooperation among States in this area.

36. Combating terrorism also requires the establishment of a lasting peace and the reduction of sources of tension. That is one aspect of Morocco's strategic commitment to building a united Maghreb on sound bases as a means of promoting stability in the region.

37. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a key to stability in the region. It underscores the erratic way in which the international community has acted and the latter's inability to impose a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. Failure to find a settlement is fuelling extremism and the terrorist aspirations that go along with it.

38. In light of these threats and challenges, security and stability seem both a common good that should be preserved and a strategic goal to be pursued. Accordingly, Morocco and its Mediterranean partners owe it to themselves to remain vigilant and jointly committed to the common fight to eradicate the roots of terrorism and to eliminate its structures.

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I. Introduction

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3. Accordingly, Algeria cannot but welcome the international community's espousal of the concept of collective security, currently shared by all States and by regional and international organizations. Algeria is convinced that the growing interest shown in this concept in various forums unquestionably lends weight to efforts to promote closer ties between peoples and establish peace and security through dialogue and mutual consultation.

4. The communal fate of the Mediterranean peoples has made it necessary and appropriate for them to pursue a dialogue that has steadily become deeper through an increasing number of shared initiatives designed to establish frameworks for concerted action between the two shores of the Mediterranean. These include the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Mediterranean Forum, the "Five plus Five" framework and the Mediterranean Dialogue of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Such initiatives in fact bear witness to a growing awareness of the close link between security in Europe and security and stability in the Mediterranean region.

5. Because security in Europe is intrinsically bound up with security in the Mediterranean region, we consider that the latter necessarily depends on security and stability on its southern shore. We are therefore convinced that any discussion of the future of the system of security in the European region must include the Mediterranean dimension and be premised on the indivisible character of security, which alone can safeguard the legitimate interests of all concerned in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

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7. From this point of view, it is necessary for the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to conduct policies designed not to confirm the divide between the North and the South but to promote solidarity in ways that can help to narrow the economic and social gaps between the two shores. This challenge faces all the countries of the region without exception, and they must take it up in a positive spirit of solidarity and openness.

8. Viewed from this angle, the ambitious project of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area must not be restricted to the free flow of goods and services, but must seek to prevent any further accentuation of the asymmetry that exists in the development of the northern and southern parts of the Mediterranean region. It should be gradually strengthened by the movement of persons and human exchanges, on the understanding that the ultimate goal of this undertaking is the advancement and all-round development of human beings.

9. The greatest threat to security in the region lies primarily in the worrying rise in inequalities between the two shores of the Mediterranean. So long as exclusion and marginalization affect entire segments of society on the southern shore, made

more vulnerable by the negative effects of structural adjustment programmes, free trade can hardly be expected to lead to the creation of shared prosperity, unless there is active cooperation in finding credible solutions to the key questions of development.

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3. The thinking and political action needed to build an area of common security linking Europe to the Mediterranean region, taking into account all the factors that make the peoples of the region so insecure, requires an overall approach to security that is multidimensional in nature and involves concerted action.

4. Indeed, the dangers facing most of the Mediterranean countries stem from the cumulative impact of the underdevelopment and the economic and political impasses weighing upon their stability, present and future.

5. The Millennium Development Goal commitments offer a new dynamic for reversing the decline in human development indicators and a chance that must be seized to eradicate poverty, improve the living conditions of the peoples of the southern shores of the Mediterranean, limit illegal immigration, and eradicate the spreading of transnational crime and illicit arms trafficking that are undermining the security of the people and the stability of the whole region.

6. Morocco, aware of its responsibilities as an active participant in the international political scene, is committed to promoting non-proliferation and disarmament by acceding and conforming to international and regional non-proliferation regimes and to arms limitation and disarmament agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Inhumane Weapons Convention and two of its Protocols and The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

7. Morocco's efforts and its undertaking to promote non-proliferation and disarmament have led the international community to assign it many responsibilities in this field, namely, its election to the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors (2006-2008); its chairmanship of meetings on The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles (2006-2007); its chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, during which it played a constructive consensus-building role and presided over the 2004 adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; its vice-chairmanship of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) of the General Assembly in 2005, in which it worked towards the adoption of an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace small arms and light weapons; and its presidency of the Conference on Disarmament (2004).

8. Strengthening confidence-building measures in the Mediterranean region necessarily requires strengthening dialogue, cooperation and consultation on regional issues and active solidarity between both sides of the Mediterranean.

9. In that context, Morocco is working tirelessly to enrich the conceptual framework of Euro-Mediterranean relations, to enhance its structures and mechanisms and to optimize its programmes. The rich and global framework for cooperation provided by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the content of which is multidimensional and diversified, could be strengthened and optimized for the

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15. In an attempt to intensify Euro-Mediterranean cooperation Morocco hosted, on 8 and 9 September 2005, the eleventh seminar of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); the latter, instead of confining itself to the security approach that had prevailed for years, focused on the human and economic dimensions, thereby marking a qualitative shift in bilateral cooperation between OSCE and its partners south of the Mediterranean.

16. Positive proposals were made on how to turn migration into a factor of economic development, how to strengthen the Mediterranean partnership so as to combat illegal migration, how to safeguard migrants' rights while clarifying their duties and how to implement effective integration policies, thereby demonstrating that both shores of the Mediterranean have a common interest in turning this into a

dynamic process that will promote security, stability and development in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

17. It is in that spirit and in order to boost the dynamics of that North-South dialogue that Morocco hosted the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in Rabat on 10 and 11 July 2006; the purpose of that Conference was to help European and African partners work out lasting solutions to the challenge of migration. The Conference, the first of its type to offer a framework of consultation to senior officials from the countries of origin, transit and destination, was attended by representatives of 30 European States and 28 African States and led to the adoption of a political declaration and plan of action dealing with three issues that are fundamental for regulating migration: promotion of development, inter alia by establishing financial instruments to encourage co-development and developing knowledge and know-how; facilitation of legal migration by establishing cooperation programmes; and, lastly, countering of illegal migration by strengthening national border controls in countries of origin and transit, operational cooperation between police and the judiciary, assistance to victims, funding mechanisms and institutional framework for such actions.

18. Morocco, believing in the concept of the indivisibility of security, reiterates the need to expand the circle of Euro-Mediterranean solidarity towards other regions, especially Africa, which suffers from poverty, instability and disease, all of which foster conditions conducive to insecurity such as migration, refugee flows, illicit trafficking of arms, drugs and people, and transnational crime. That concept of "security for all" favours the adoption of a global, mutually agreed approach in the service of peace and security and based on responsibility shared between the countries on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

19. Morocco reaffirms that the only way to achieve comprehensive and effective security in the Mediterranean region is by holding discussions on three levels, national, regional and international. It should be noted that the approach taken by Morocco is similar to that taken by its European partners; both are based on the concept of comprehensive security, combining concern for security with humanitarian concerns.

20. Accordingly, Morocco calls for renewed, strengthened and strong commitment in the context of a comprehensive and multidimensional approach based on shared responsibility and mutual trust and resolutely turned towards uniting efforts so as to ensure that account is taken of all the challenges to common security.

21. Socio-economic development and strengthening of democracy are key words in the pursuit of the goals of peace and security in the Mediterranean region for, in the present context, a State whose sovereignty is respected and whose territorial integrity is preserved is most likely to be able to guarantee the safety of its people and of its neighbours.

22. Implementation of the Agadir regional agreement on free trade will doubtless mark an important step towards increasing prosperity and enhancing regional integration. Creation of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area — which is scheduled for 2010 — is becoming increasingly necessary.

23. The appearance of new global threats, such as terrorism, demand a multiplication of efforts to promote concerted and tight cooperation so as to respond appropriately to these challenges.

24. Morocco has itself been the target of several terrorist attacks and it is convinced that the same threat looms over all the members of the international community. Its actions to combat terrorism are three-dimensional: national, regional and international. It has acceded to the conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, has adopted a national law against terrorism and has collaborated closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

25. Given the complex nature and mobility of terrorism, which scoffs at borders and national identities, it is essential to switch from the framework of action outlined at the global level to a stronger and more appropriate regional approach. This subregional dimension could be based on the experience of the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue (inter alia the 5+5 Dialogue) and take greater account of the experience of the various countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, which have long been faced with the rise of hateful radicalism and have acquired expertise that should be tapped for this struggle.

26. Strengthened cooperation between Morocco and its Mediterranean neighbours, which led to the signing of a declaration at Nice, at the twelfth Conference of Ministers of the Interior of Western Mediterranean Countries (Algeria, France, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia), has increased cooperation as regards terrorism, the fight against organized crime, immigration and civil defence.

27. This strengthened cooperation is demonstrated by the conclusion of several bilateral agreements on security against terrorism and organized crime with countries around the Mediterranean, including Egypt, France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Spain. Other draft agreements are also being negotiated with Portugal and Turkey.

28. In addition, in May 2006, the French and Moroccan Ministries of the Interior signed a bilateral agreement concerning forensics, and the national parliament adopted Act. No. 43-05 on money-laundering. Article 38 of that Act provides for the freezing of assets of any person suspected of ties to a terrorist enterprise, which task is to be carried out by the yet-to-be created "financial intelligence unit", thereby dealing with the anomaly pointed out by the Counter-Terrorism Committee during its mission to Morocco in 2003.

29. At the operational level, Morocco has made significant advances as regards combating drug trafficking, particularly as regards cannabis. These efforts have been welcomed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in a document entitled "2006 World Drug Report" published in February 2007. Operational cooperation between Algeria, France, Morocco and Spain in the fight against terrorism has resulted in the dismantling of several terrorism networks in Morocco.

30. Morocco has also begun strengthening police cooperation by extending and sharing the network of liaison officers with France and Spain, setting up joint brigades (Gendarmerie Royale/Guardia Civil) to monitor the maritime borders, thereby reducing the number of migrants arriving on Spanish soil by more than 50 per cent, and has exchanged experts and training, inter alia on biological and nuclear terrorism, with its partners.

31. Morocco would like to draw attention to the need felt by the security services of countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean to be brought up to speed as regards personnel training and technological equipment in order to be able to deal with the new challenges posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime. Technical assistance such as that provided for in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is needed.

32. Given that the Sahelo-Saharan strip — an area which is known for arms trafficking and absence of border checks and which is therefore an ideal place for terrorist networks — causes it to be concerned about security. Morocco is committed to the fight with its strategic allies and it is open to constructive initiatives to develop that poor region and to promote stability in the entire Maghreb region. The Pan-Sahel Initiative — which provides technical assistance to the security forces of the Maghreb countries — the Flintlock exercise — which seeks to counter terrorism and crime conducted across borders, the Medshark/Majestic Eagle '04 exercise overseen by NATO, the Trans-Sahel Counter-Terrorism Initiative, which provides for a five-year programme of military, anti-terrorist and good governance assistance, are all programmes that contribute to the fight against terrorism.

33. Given the efforts it is known to have made in this area, Morocco was chosen to host the first meeting, in October 2006, of the Global Initiative to Counter Terrorism, the purpose of which was to establish a network of partner nations to avert and combat nuclear terrorism.

34. The meeting adopted two main documents, a declaration and terms of reference, which emphasize the main goals of the Initiative, namely, to improve accounting and security of nuclear and radioactive materials and enhance the security of nuclear facilities with a view to forestalling nuclear terrorist activities. The goal is also to promote information-sharing and assistance in the event of an incident, to commit not to grant safe haven to terrorists planning nuclear attacks and to organize seminars on related topics.

35. Morocco calls for the expansion of this initiative, which is notable for its pragmatic and operational approach and for being based on the existing international legal framework and is therefore an effective and appropriate contribution to the efforts to combat nuclear terrorism and an appropriate way to strengthen cooperation among States in this area.

36. Combating terrorism also requires the establishment of a lasting peace and the reduction of sources of tension. That is one aspect of Morocco's strategic commitment to building a united Maghreb on sound bases as a means of promoting stability in the region.

37. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a key to stability in the region. It underscores the erratic way in which the international community has acted and the latter's inability to impose a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. Failure to find a settlement is fuelling extremism and the terrorist aspirations that go along with it.

38. In light of these threats and challenges, security and stability seem both a common good that should be preserved and a strategic goal to be pursued. Accordingly, Morocco and its Mediterranean partners owe it to themselves to remain vigilant and jointly committed to the common fight to eradicate the roots of terrorism and to eliminate its structures.

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Sixty-second session
Item 100 (j) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/64. It summarizes the activities recently undertaken by the partner departments and partner agency of the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development in areas related to the subject. It also contains information received from Governments on the subject.

* A/62/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/64, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". In that resolution, the General Assembly recalled the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/59/119), and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session.

II. Action taken

Activities undertaken by partner departments and partner agency of the Steering Group on Disarmament and Development

2. The present report summarizes the activities related to disarmament and development undertaken by the partner departments and partner agency of the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, since the last report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/61/98).

3. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided support to seven disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in peacekeeping operations. In these programmes, the Department works closely with the United Nations system and other development partners to better plan and implement reintegration programmes. A recent innovation piloted by the Department is the use of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units (in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan), which co-locate staff members from relevant United Nations development agencies in the unit to better coordinate their contribution to the reintegration dimension of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy. In February 2007, the Department conducted a joint review of these units to capture lessons learned and best practices. Key lessons learned included the need for further improvement in early planning of appropriate reintegration programmes, the need for the mission to contribute to this early planning and the need to build strong joint culture among United Nations partners supporting the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in a peacekeeping mission.

4. The Department also co-chaired the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, consisting of 16 United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, which launched the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards and the web-based United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre, on 18 December 2006. The Standards consolidate policy guidance on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, providing a United Nations integrated approach on the planning, management and implementation of related processes. The Standards are also the most complete repository and best practices drawn from the experience of all United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. In addition

to the 24 areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration addressed in this first version of the Standards, the Department is working with a range of partners to develop guidance on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform linkages, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and transitional justice linkages and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the peace process.

5. Recognizing that armed violence and conflict impede realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) actively supports Governments' efforts to prevent and combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants, and to reduce and prevent armed violence. During 2006, such assistance was provided to over 40 countries worldwide. In addition to this programmatic support, UNDP has also actively contributed to the disarmament and development agenda by promoting and participating in a number of policy-oriented initiatives.

6. Following a ministerial summit held in Geneva in June 2006 at which 42 States adopted the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the Government of Switzerland and UNDP, in collaboration with a Core Group of Member States, have engaged in a longer-term process aimed at promoting the linkage between armed violence and development and in applying the commitments contained in the Declaration in a number of focus countries. These efforts focus on three pillars:

- Advocacy, dissemination and coordination: recognizing that the impact and weight of the Geneva Declaration is likely to increase with the number of its signatories, the Core Group is working to promote the Geneva Declaration and secure enhanced support. A regional seminar was organized in April 2007 in Guatemala to promote the Geneva Declaration among countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region. This resulted in the adoption by 12 countries in the region of the Guatemala Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. A second workshop for the Africa region is expected to take place during 2007. At the end of June 2007, the Geneva Declaration had been adopted by 50 States.

- Measurability and research: recognizing the importance of measuring the cost and assessing the impact of armed violence on development for effective preventive programming, the Core Group is focusing on developing appropriate tools and indicators to measure the impact of armed violence on development. To that end, a workshop will be organized in June 2007 by the Small Arms Survey in Geneva.

- Programming: recognizing the need to ensure that the provisions of the Geneva Declaration lead to effective armed violence prevention programmes, the Core Group is working with a number of focus countries to develop comprehensive armed violence prevention programmes. This includes work to mainstream armed violence prevention into national development frameworks.

7. In 2006 and 2007, UNDP continued to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the joint Armed Violence Prevention Programme. Initiated in 2005, this joint initiative aims to promote effective responses to armed violence through support for the development of an international policy framework founded

on a clear understanding of the causes, nature and impacts of armed violence, and the best practices generated from violence reduction and prevention initiatives to date.

8. At the global level, the Armed Violence Prevention Programme is working with donor agencies within the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) to develop guidance on armed violence and development. As co-chair of the OECD-DAC Task Team on Security and Development, UNDP is playing an active role in the development of this guidance.

9. At the country level, during 2006, Armed Violence Prevention Programme projects in Brazil and El Salvador have focused on strengthening national interventions and institutional capacities to monitor and address armed violence, as well as to evaluate promising prevention practices. During 2007, the Programme will work with Governments, agencies of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to develop comprehensive armed violence prevention programmes in focus countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

10. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has assisted the Government of Costa Rica and its recently created national firearms commission in the restructuring of UNDP and UN-LiREC assistance in the implementation of its national Disarmament and Development Project. This ongoing project aims to reduce the impact of firearms violence on development, and in particular, on the health-care system.

11. In addition, UN-LiREC assisted UNDP Country Offices in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago with a view to designing an inclusive assistance package on peace and security. The outcome of this has been a commitment from both countries to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, which will include the revision of firearms legislation, research, as well as training and community development components, all within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at the country level.

12. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) continued the operation of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Register for Africa for nine participating States with a view to promoting transparency in the flows of small arms and light weapons. The Register's database was established under the Small Arms Transparency and Control Regime in Africa project and has been operational since May 2006. Contribution to the Register encourages greater openness, transparency and confidence-building among the participating States, hence promoting security and paving the way for sustainable development.

13. UNREC participated in the drafting and review process of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms, Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Associated Material. Notably, UNREC chaired the working session of the Group of Independent Experts, established by ECOWAS to review the draft Convention. The Convention is a legally binding instrument to stem the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, making it possible for development programmes to take place in a secure environment.

14. In addition, UNREC initiated, in 2007, a programme entitled "African Security Sector Reform Programme", which aims at transforming governance within the

African security sector. The Programme is currently being implemented in Togo with a focus on promoting civil-military relations. Ultimately, this Programme will be extended to 11 other African countries.

15. Further, in recognition of the fundamental role civil society organizations play in the promotion of peace and security, UNREC is currently implementing a project entitled "Capacity-building on practical disarmament and peacebuilding: strengthening the grassroots and civil society organizations". The objective of the project is to enhance the capacities of civil society organizations, through regional workshops, to effectively complement the efforts of national Governments in consolidating peace and security, thus contributing to conflict prevention and facilitating conditions for sustainable development in Africa.

III. Information received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2007]

Comments of the Government of the Republic of Cuba pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 61/64 entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development"

This item originated in Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides for the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of human and economic resources. Subsequently, the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly mentioned the relationship between disarmament and development and called on the international community to continue to study that relationship, which then became an item for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in September 1987, emphasizes this relationship and states in that connection that:

- Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today;
- The continuing arms race is absorbing far too great a proportion of the world's human, financial, natural and technological resources, placing a heavy burden on the economies of all countries and affecting the international flow of trade, finance and technology;
- The global military expenditures are in dramatic contrast to economic and social underdevelopment and to the misery and poverty afflicting more than two thirds of mankind.

In that connection, an action programme was proposed for adoption by the international community which includes:

- The importance of respect of the international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts;

- The international commitment to allocate a portion of the resources released through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development. For this purpose, further consideration should be given to the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures as a means of reallocating additional resources for social and economic development for the developing countries;

- The political and security requirements and the level of military spending, taking into account the need to keep these expenditures at the lowest possible level and to keep the public informed on the subject.

In view of its importance, this item remained on the agenda of the various General Assembly sessions, at which the Assembly adopted resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004 and 60/61 of 8 December 2005, as well as decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003.

In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 57/65 of 22 November 2002, a Group of Governmental Experts was established to study this topic in order to review the relationship, taking into account the changes in the international community since 1987. Its report contained many important ideas, observations and recommendations, including:

- In the new international context, after a slight reduction during the 1990s, since 2001 global military expenditure has been constantly rising;

- Some countries have moved away from seeking multilateral solutions to questions of disarmament and security, as evident in the failure to negotiate a verification protocol concerning biological weapons and toxins and the lack of entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

- Underdevelopment and poverty continue to haunt a large number of nations. The report refers to the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2003*, according to which over 50 countries are poorer today than they were in 1990, and human development indicators such as hunger and child mortality have worsened in some countries and extreme poverty affects one fifth of humankind.

Cuba's position on this matter is clearly stated in the final documents of the Twelfth and Fourteenth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in South Africa and Cuba in 1998 and 2006, respectively, and of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference, held in Colombia in 2000. These final documents refer to the need to end the insane arms race and the need for States to contribute to the sustainable development of the developing countries by releasing a portion of the resources devoted to the arms race.

The spiral of violence of United States imperial policy has intensified, exacerbated by the resistance of the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan and the threat of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and encouraging the allocation of astronomical sums of billions of dollars to the Pentagon budget. As was to be expected, this budget is detracting from pro-development spending to benefit the

most vulnerable sectors of American society itself, while the United States is pressuring its allies to follow it on this path.

In addition, such expenditure obliges other countries of the world to devote growing sums of money to their defence, since it fosters international insecurity, fear and mistrust by provoking a greater threat to peace, increasing the danger of global war on the planet and accelerating the arms race.

Collateral damage from this same phenomenon is affecting natural and socio-economic resources on the planet, because they are being used irrationally, with unforeseeable consequences for the economic, social and climatic order and in general for the entire range of activity of the human race. Because this mainly affects "third world" countries, it is widening the gap between the developed North and the poor South.

In the opinion of Cuba, the constant increase in military expenditure globally, which now exceeds one trillion dollars, is a factor that suffices to create a climate of mistrust and legitimate international concern. One country — the United States of America — spends on weapons the same as all of the rest of the world.

These are the realities that we must tackle with urgent action. As a concrete initiative, which in addition to its obvious usefulness could be very valuable as a confidence-building measure, Cuba proposes the creation of a fund administered by the United Nations, into which at least half of current military expenditure would be paid in order to meet the economic and social development requirements of needy countries.

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Sixty-second session
Item 106 of the preliminary list*
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 61/104, entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it, and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Information on the subject provided by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization is contained in the annex.

* A/62/50.

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Annex

Report on efforts of states towards the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[a] June 2006-May 2007

State	*Date period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
1. Bilateral level			
1 (a). Activities relating to Annex 2 States			
Argentina	June 2006-May 2007	Argentina consistently reiterated to those Annex 2 States which had yet to ratify the Treaty the importance of doing so in order to promote its early entry into force.	
Australia	June 2006	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia urged Indonesia to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible, emphasizing that, as an Annex 2 State, Indonesia had a special role to play in achieving entry into force of the Treaty.	
	June 2006	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia provided assistance to the Special Representative of Ratifying States (Article XIV Conference Special Representative) in making a series of calls on Permanent Representatives based in Vienna, including the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, to urge signature and/or ratification of the Treaty.	

[a] The report includes activities that have been completed (i.e., that are not ongoing or planned) and that were aimed at promoting entry into force of the Treaty.

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	September 2006	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia provided assistance to the Special Representative of Ratifying States (Article XIV Conference Special Representative) in making a series of calls on non-ratifying Annex 2 States Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran to urge ratification of the Treaty on the margins of the General Assembly.	
Brazil	June 2006-May 2007	Brazil has consistently reiterated to Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty the importance of doing so and of promoting its immediate entry into force	
Canada	October 2006	Following the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it conducted a nuclear test, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada released a statement noting that Canada was deeply concerned and that the announced test was very provocative and unacceptable to Canada.	
France	June 2006-May 2007	France conducted regular discussions with Annex 2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty. In those discussions, France seized every opportunity to stress the importance it attaches to entry into force of the Treaty, including at a workshop on the promotion of resolution 1540 (2004), held in May 2007 in Indonesia.	
Germany	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts — frequently at the ministerial level — Germany raised the issue of the signature and ratification of the Treaty with all Annex 2 States.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
	January-May 2007	In its capacity as European Union president, Germany initiated and implemented, at the ambassadorial level, démarches to promote the Treaty with all 10 Annex 2 States which have yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty.	
Italy	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts with those Annex 2 States which had not yet ratified the Treaty, Italy underscored the importance of its entry into force, made even more urgent by the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it had conducted a nuclear test.	
Japan	June 2006-February 2007	In bilateral consultations, Japan urged those Annex 2 States which have not yet ratified the Treaty, including Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and Pakistan, to do so at the earliest opportunity.	
	February 2007	Japan invited a Colombian delegation, headed by the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate of Colombia, to visit facilities of the International Monitoring System hosted by Japan and to exchange views on the Treaty with relevant Japanese authorities.	
	April 2007	Prior to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna from 30 April to 11 May 2007, Japan urged those Annex 2 States which had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity.	
New Zealand	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts, New Zealand encouraged those States, including Annex 2 States, which had not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
	June 2006-May 2007	The Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand issued a press release to welcome the ratification of the Treaty by Viet Nam.	
Qatar	June 2006-May 2007	Qatar spared no effort to urge all States, including Annex 2 States, which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so, in order to bridge the serious gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.	
Russian Federation	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts with those Annex 2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, the Russian Federation repeatedly raised the necessity of doing so without further delay.	
Ukraine	October 2006	Following the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it would conduct a nuclear test, Ukraine, as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, issued two statements with strong messages to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 6 and 9 October 2006, respectively. In those statements, Ukraine urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to: (a) refrain from engaging in any nuclear testing; (b) exercise in the future every restraint, in order to avoid steps that would have major international repercussions; (c) return to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and (d) sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
	October 2006	Seizing the opportunity offered by the announcement of a nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ukraine, as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, called upon all States, including Annex 2 States, to exercise maximum restraint and to continue the moratoriums on nuclear-weapon-test explosions and other nuclear explosions.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	June 2006-May 2007	The United Kingdom maintained regular bilateral contacts with all Annex 2 States, and continued to take every suitable opportunity in such contacts to promote the Treaty and to stress the importance the United Kingdom attaches to the Treaty's early entry into force. For example, the United Kingdom raised the issue of the ratification of the Treaty at official level with Indonesia in June 2006 and with Israel in November 2006.	
1. Bilateral level			
1 (b). Activities relating to non-Annex-2 States			
Australia	June 2006	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia provided assistance to the Article XIV Conference Special Representative to make a series of calls on the Permanent Representatives of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, to urge signature and/or ratification of the Treaty.	
	June-July 2006	The High Commissioner of Australia in Port of Spain wrote to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, urging signature and/or ratification of the Treaty as soon as possible.	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	July 2006	The High Commissioner of Australia in Honiara urged the Government of Solomon Islands to ratify the Treaty.	
	September 2006	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia provided assistance to the Article XIV Conference Special Representative in making a series of calls on non-ratifying non-Annex-2 States Brunei Darussalam, Dominica, Guinea, Iraq, Mozambique, Myanmar, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to urge ratification of the Treaty on the margins of the General Assembly.	
	25-28 February 2007	In its capacity as Article XIV Coordinator, Australia provided assistance to the Article XIV Conference Special Representative in visiting Malaysia and urging the Malaysian Government to ratify the Treaty.	
France	June 2006-May 2007	France conducted regular discussions with non-Annex-2 States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty. In those discussions, France seized every opportunity to stress the importance France attaches to entry into force of the Treaty.	
Germany	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts — frequently at the ministerial level — Germany raised the issue of the signature and ratification of the Treaty with a large number of non-Annex-2 States.	
	January-May 2007	In its capacity as European Union President, Germany initiated and implemented, at the ambassadorial level, démarches to promote the Treaty with 46 non-Annex-2 States which have yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty.	
New Zealand	June 2006-May 2007	In its bilateral contacts, New Zealand encouraged those non-Annex-2 States that had not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
Qatar	June 2006-May 2007	Qatar spared no effort to urge all non-Annex-2 States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so in order to bridge the serious gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.	
Ukraine	October 2006	Seizing the opportunity offered by the announcement of a nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ukraine, as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization called upon all States, including Annex 2 States, to exercise maximum restraint and to continue the moratoriums on nuclear-weapon-test explosions and other nuclear explosions.	
	June 2006-May 2007	In bilateral contacts with Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova,[b] Ukraine repeatedly raised the issue of the ratification of the Treaty by those States, so as to achieve universality of the Treaty in the Eastern European geographical region.	
	June-October 2006	Ukraine paid particular attention to assisting Montenegro[c] in completing the necessary procedures to succeed to the Treaty, following Montenegro's declaration of independence and admission to the United Nations.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	August 2006-May 2007	The United Kingdom maintained regular bilateral contacts with all non-Annex-2 States and continued to take every suitable opportunity to promote the Treaty and its universalization in such contacts, including, most recently, at the ministerial level in Sri Lanka in February 2007.	

[b] Ratification of the Treaty was completed on 12 July 2006 for Armenia, on 26 October 2006 for Bosnia and Herzegovina and on 16 January 2007 for Moldova.
[c] Montenegro succeeded to the Treaty on 23 October 2006.

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and content*	*Comments*
2. Multilateral level			
2 (a). Global			
Australia	20 September 2006	Australia was a co-convener of the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and co-sponsor of the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia co-chaired the meeting and attended the press conference held after the meeting. Seventy-two States associated themselves with the Joint Ministerial Statement.
	6 December 2006	Australia co-sponsored a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
Brazil	6 December 2006	Brazil voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
Canada	20 September 2006	Canada co-chaired, with Australia, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands, the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and co-sponsored the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia co-chaired the meeting and attended the press conference held after the meeting. Seventy-two States associated themselves with the Joint Ministerial Statement.
	6 December 2006	Canada co-sponsored a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	June 2006-May 2007	Canada placed a priority on the establishment of the Treaty's verification system and continued to play a leading role among Member States in contributing resources, equipment and expertise to the development of the International Monitoring System. Of the 16 International Monitoring System facilities hosted by Canada, only one radionuclide station remains to be built, while six other stations still require certification by the Provisional Technical Secretariat. Data gathered by the radionuclide station at Yellowknife, Canada, were key to determining the nature of the explosion in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006.	
France	June 2006-May 2007	In relevant multilateral forums, including the United Nations Conference on Disarmament and the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, France seized every opportunity to promote entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.	
Germany	June 2006-May 2007	Wherever possible, Germany advocated, through public statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and joint declarations, the early entry into force of the Treaty.	
Italy	20 September 2006	Italy participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and supported the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	12 October 2006	Italy organized an international conference on disarmament and non-proliferation challenges at the Institute for International Political Studies in Milan, at the time of the announcement of the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The conference, in which representatives of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency participated, discussed possible options for strengthening the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament system and reaffirmed the need to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty.	
	6 December 2006	Italy co-sponsored a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
	14 December 2006	Italy organized a round table on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in Milan, with the participation of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Participants in that event stressed the need to continue diplomatic action towards States that had not yet ratified the Treaty.	
	26 February 2007	Italy sponsored an international conference on the theme "Weapons threats and international security: rebuilding an unravelled consensus", which was held in New York. During the conference, in which think tanks and international personalities participated, the urgency and importance of the entry into force of the Treaty was reaffirmed.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Jamaica	June 2006-May 2007	Jamaica supported all initiatives at the global level aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty and seized every opportunity to stress its importance as a means of achieving lasting peace and security.	
	6 December 2006	Jamaica voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
	6 December 2006	Jamaica voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/74.	
New Zealand	June 2006-May 2007	In its national statements to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, New Zealand consistently called for those States that had not yet done so to ratify the Treaty.	
	8 July 2006	The Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control of New Zealand reiterated, in an interview in the *CTBTO Spectrum*, the importance that New Zealand attached to the entry into force of the Treaty.	
	6 December 2006	New Zealand worked with Australia and Mexico in coordinating a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
	20 September 2006	New Zealand participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and supported the Joint Ministerial Meeting adopted at the meeting.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
	30 April-11 May 2007	As a member of a group of 10 countries based in Vienna, New Zealand co-authored a paper on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna. The paper put a strong emphasis on the early entry into force of the Treaty.	
Peru	June 2006-May 2007	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty through public statements and joint declarations in relevant international forums. Peru underlined in several multilateral contexts the importance of the Treaty and promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged States that had not yet signed or ratified it to do so.	
Qatar	June 2006-May 2007	Qatar spared no effort in multilateral forums to urge all States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so in order to bridge the serious gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.	
	6 December 2006	Qatar voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
Russian Federation	20 September 2006	The Russian Federation participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and actively supported the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	
	June 2006-May 2007	The Russian Federation supported the initiative of convening the fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in Vienna on 17 and 18 September 2007.	

State	Date/period	Activities and context	Comments
	6 December 2006	The Russian Federation voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
	31 August-1 September 2006	Representatives of the Russian scientific community took part in a symposium, held in Vienna, entitled "CTBT: Synergies with science, 1996-2006 and beyond" marking the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature.	
	15-17 May 2006	An exchange of views on the entry into force of the Treaty took place between the relevant Russian authorities and the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization during his visit to Moscow.	
Switzerland	June 2006-May 2007	Switzerland stressed, in all relevant international forums, the importance of early entry into force of the Treaty.	
Turkey	20 September 2006	Turkey participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and associated itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	
	6 December 2006	Turkey co-sponsored a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104.	
	6 December 2006	Turkey voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/74.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Ukraine	June 2006-May 2007	In its capacity as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Ukraine spared no effort to raise the question of the ratification of the Treaty by calling on those States that had not yet done so to ratify it and actively supporting the efforts deployed by other partners and the Preparatory Commission in this regard.	
	June 2006-May 2007	In its statements at the United Nations and in other international forums, Ukraine reiterated its strong and consistent support of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and called upon those States that had yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity.	
	20 September 2006	Ukraine participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and associated itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 September 2006	A Minister of the United Kingdom attended the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and supported the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	
	June 2006-May 2007	The United Kingdom fully supported European Union statements at United Nations meetings calling for the entry into force of the Treaty, including at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in January and February 2007.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	20 September 2006	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela participated in the ministerial meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York, and associated itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting.	
	6 December 2006	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/104	
	October 2006	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of a draft resolution entitled "Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 61/74.	
	June 2006-May 2007	In all international forums, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated its support for international disarmament instruments and called upon all those States that had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so.	
	June 2006-May 2007	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela contributed to the establishment of the International Monitoring System through the installation of two auxiliary seismic stations on its territory.	
2. Multilateral level			
2 (b). Regional			
Canada	11-13 October 2006	Canada co-hosted, with Mexico, a regional workshop for the promotion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for States in the Greater Caribbean, which was held in Mexico City, with the aim of encouraging signature, ratification and implementation of the Treaty in the subregion.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
France	June 2006-May 2007	Within the framework of the European Union (EU), France supported all initiatives aimed at promoting entry into force of the Treaty. These included démarches carried out by France, on behalf of the German presidency of the EU, in the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo and Mauritius, as well as in Guatemala.	
Germany	June 2006-May 2007	Wherever possible, Germany advocated, through public statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and joint declarations, the early entry into force of the Treaty.	
Italy	June 2006-May 2007	Within the European Union, Italy provided support for initiatives aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty.	
Jamaica	June 2006-May 2007	Jamaica supported all initiatives at the regional level and participated in numerous conferences aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, including an international cooperation workshop on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for States in the Greater Caribbean, which was held in Mexico City from 11 to 13 October 2006.	
Peru	June 2006-May 2007	Peru continued its efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the Treaty through public statements and joint declarations in relevant international forums. Peru underlined in several multilateral contexts the importance of the Treaty and promoted its early entry into force and, in this regard, urged States that had not yet signed or ratified it to do so.	

State	*Date/period*	*Activities and context*	*Comments*
Qatar	June 2006-May 2007	Qatar spared no effort in multilateral forums to urge all States which had not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so in order to bridge the serious gap in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.	
Ukraine	June 2006-May 2007	In its statements at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and in other regional forums, Ukraine reiterated its strong and consistent support for multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and called upon those States that had yet to sign and/or ratify the Treaty to do so at the earliest opportunity.	
	June 2006-May 2007	Ukraine assumed the function of Coordinator of the Eastern European States in 2006 and successfully completed its term with the ratification of the Treaty by Moldova on 16 January 2007.	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	June 2006-May 2007	The United Kingdom fully supported and, where appropriate, participated in European Union démarches to promote ratification of the Treaty, including in Indonesia in March 2007.	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	October 2006	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela actively took part in an international cooperation workshop on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for States in the Greater Caribbean, which was held in Mexico City in October 2006.	

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Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/62/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 61/75 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, the General Assembly invited all Member States to submit to the Secretary-General before its sixty-second session concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

2. On 16 February 2007, a note verbale was sent to all Member States drawing their attention to paragraph 1 of resolution 61/75 and seeking relevant information on the issues outlined above. The replies received from Bolivia, Cuba, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Ukraine are reproduced in section II below. Any replies subsequently received from other Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[26 June 2007]

Analysis

1. At previous sessions, items on mass destruction, especially nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, were to a large extent the most important items relating to this type of convention.

2. Of the 54 draft resolutions and draft decisions adopted, 17 dealt with nuclear issues. The statements made by delegations focused on issues connected with nuclear non-proliferation and small arms.

3. The withdrawal of draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.23 demonstrates the confusion surrounding a treaty banning the production of fissile material.

4. Where other weapons of mass destruction are concerned, the measures for the implementation of the Convention on chemical weapons are widely supported.

5. Regional conventional disarmament has reached a new stage which requires the adoption of urgent and decisive measures, especially with regard to the problem of small arms and light weapons.

6. As a Member State, Bolivia has participated in various United Nations events and meetings where new measures in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space were discussed.

7. As regards outer space transparency and confidence-building measures, Bolivia, even though it has no weapons legislation, continues its support and affirmative voting in the various United Nations debates, thereby demonstrating its goodwill towards the maintenance of international peace and security.

Conclusions

8. As a State Member of the United Nations, Bolivia needs to have weapons legislation in support of disarmament activities and the maintenance of peace and in compliance with international agreements.

9. The National Technical Department is unable to comment further owing to a lack of background documents and information with which to back up its opinion.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2007]

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations, through its resolution 61/75, entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", invited all States Members of the United Nations to submit to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

2. In response to this invitation, the Government of Cuba is pleased to transmit the following considerations.

3. Beginning in the 1960s, the international community adopted a series of legal instruments on outer space including the Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963), the Treaty on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1967) and the Agreement on Celestial Bodies (1979). These instruments have played a constructive part in the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space and the regulation of outer space activities. They have also been of significance in relation to the ban on the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and certain military activities in outer space.

4. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is a universal goal; the majority of countries recognize that the arms race represents a grave threat to international peace and security. Yet, current developments provide lamentable proof that the existing treaties and agreements have failed to eliminate the dangers of the militarization of outer space because the situation clearly indicates that they are insufficient to prevent the deployment of weapons in the cosmos.

5. The existing multilateral machinery dealing with disarmament and arms control has the important responsibility of prevailing on the will of the international community in this regard. Cuba supports the efforts under way in the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament, especially the negotiation in the Conference of an international legal instrument on banning the deployment of weapons in outer space, and to this end it supports the establishment of a special or ad hoc committee to initiate negotiations.

6. Cuba shares the view both of countries that consider that the need to negotiate a new legal instrument arises because the existing treaties do not effectively prevent the testing, deployment and use of weapons, with the exception of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, especially in orbit around the Earth, on celestial bodies other than the Moon and in outer space, and of countries that maintain that none of

these legal instruments is relevant to the question of the use or threat of force against objects in outer space.

7. In September 2006, Cuba had the honour of presiding over the Fourteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana, at which political leaders expressed their concern about the adverse consequences of the development and deployment of antiballistic-missile defence systems and the quest for advanced military technology capable of deployment in outer space, which had the potential to unleash an arms race and the subsequent development of advanced missile systems together with an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

8. General Assembly resolution 61/75 is a very important input in those efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space; accordingly, Cuba wishes to contribute the following ideas.

9. Although transparency and confidence-building are not a substitute for arms control and disarmament measures or a prerequisite for the application of such measures, they nevertheless can facilitate the achievement of disarmament commitments and measures for their verification. Confidence-building requires goodwill on the part of States, which must themselves decide if they will embark on confidence-building, what concrete measures they will adopt and how they will put them into practice.

10. The joint formulation of recommendations on possible confidence-building measures would in itself be conducive to a better understanding of States' intentions and the current and future situation in outer space. In this sense, the joint work on the preparation of transparency and confidence-building measures would of itself promote mutual trust.

11. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities could include:

- The convening of an international conference to analyse strict compliance with existing agreements on the peaceful uses of outer space;
- Review of the current legal regime regulating outer space activities in the light of technological advances;
- The adoption of multilateral agreements for the exchange of information on the use of outer space;
- The development of international cooperation mechanisms which guarantee to all countries equal access to the benefits of the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes;
- Exchange of information on the major trends of the space policies of States, the principal programmes dealing with outer space research and utilization and the orbital parameters of space objects;
- Extending invitations to observers to attend the launching of space objects on a voluntary basis;
- Demonstration of space and rocket technologies;

- Issuing notifications about scheduled launchings of spacecraft, scheduled space manoeuvres that can result in dangerous proximity to spacecraft of other States, and the re-entry of guided spacecraft from orbit into the atmosphere;
- Consultations to clarify the information provided on outer space research and utilization programmes, on ambiguous situations and on other matters which are cause for concern; and to discuss the application of transparency and confidence-building measures agreed on in space activities.

12. Transparency and confidence-building measures can play an important part in the drafting, adoption and implementation of a new treaty banning the deployment of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of use of force against spatial objects. They would also help to create conditions conducive to the conclusion of a new agreement. The preparation of recommendations on possible transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space constitutes a relatively simple first step towards strengthening security.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[11 May 2007]

Concrete proposals of the Great Jamahiriya concerning General Assembly resolution 61/75, entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities"

- The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya accords extreme importance to the efforts of the international community to prevent the weaponization of outer space and enhance international cooperation aimed at its use for peaceful purposes.
- For that reason, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya made every effort to join the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to be able to participate, in a manner commensurate with its situation as a developing country, in international efforts, notwithstanding differences in technical and economic capabilities, in support of the goals and objectives stipulated in United Nations treaties and the related principles concerning outer space.
- The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya commends all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that stress the need for increased transparency and the importance of confidence-building measures conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and notes the constructive nature of the debate being held on this subject in the relevant forums.
- The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is of the opinion that adhering in word and in deed to the provisions of the United Nations treaties, their principles pertaining to outer space and the principles governing related activities will be among the most important confidence-building factors that will motivate all parties, in particular States that possess advanced technologies in the area of space capabilities, to adopt an approach characterized by greater transparency in their practices connected with space activities and their use of available technologies.

- The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms the importance of increased international awareness in defining outer space as the patrimony of all humanity and making known the potential destructive consequences, in the event of an arms race in outer space, and the armed struggles to which it might give rise.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2007]

1. Mexico supports the efforts of the international community to prevent an arms race in outer space and to promote international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space. In the Conference on Disarmament, it has supported proposals on preventing an arms race in outer space which recognize the need to preserve outer space as the common heritage of humanity in order to promote its development and prevent its destruction.

2. It has also supported the adoption of General Assembly resolutions on the subject and reiterated the importance of support by the international community for the principle of peaceful uses of outer space through transparency and confidence-building, particularly among States with advanced technologies in this field.

3. Although the 1993 study on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space provided a broad panorama of such measures, emphasizing the importance of security, openness and predictability in the definition of this type of measure, Mexico would emphasize the advisability of conducting a new evaluation with specific recommendations which take into consideration changes in the international context and technological advances and generate elements conducive to the adoption of effective action promoting a cooperative climate of confidence.

4. Mexico also considers it desirable to prevail on States with space capabilities to declare that they will not be the first to deploy a weapon of any kind in outer space. This will no doubt lead to the adoption of commitments which will prevent an arms race in outer space.

5. Mexico further considers it fundamental to include a robust multilateral verification regime in the negotiation and adoption of an international instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, thereby building confidence among States and helping to ensure full implementation of the instrument. Although the absence of internationally accepted definitions in relation to outer space could stand in the way of negotiations on a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, it is important to remember that, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament in 1988, some delegations suggested that it would be possible, with the help of experts, to formulate a definition that not only described space weapons but also enumerated their components.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[11 May 2007]

1. The Russian Federation considers that confidence-building measures help to ensure peace, security and stability at all levels, to eliminate possible threats and overcome challenges to peace and security, and to prevent military confrontation, while facilitating the management of situations that could lead to international tension. They make a significant contribution to improving inter-State relations and the development of dialogue and cooperation between countries.

2. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, in view of the growing dependence of all countries in the world on the outcome of such activities, are an important component of confidence-building measures, which also include measures on land, at sea and in the air, and are intended to achieve similar aims. They are recognized as helping to prevent the emergence of outer space as a new sphere of confrontation, to avoid a new nuclear arms race and to establish conditions for the predictability of the strategic situation in outer space, the security of outer space activities and the protection of space assets. These measures may become a significant field for broad multilateral cooperation.

3. A number of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are already included in international agreements on outer space: the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the 1968 Astronauts Rescue Agreement, the 1972 Liability Convention and the 1975 Registration Convention. Some of these measures are applied by States as a unilateral initiative and are political obligations.

4. Transparency and confidence-building measures are not, however, all-embracing in terms either of their coverage of the various types of outer space activity or of the participation of States in their implementation. Joint work is needed on additional measures in this area that are appropriate to the current stage of development of humanity.

5. In this work it would be useful to consider the results of the study on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space that was conducted by a group of governmental experts over the period 1990-1993 (it is included in the report by the Secretary-General contained in document A/48/305) and also other related proposals introduced by States, including some proposals in connection with General Assembly resolution 61/75.

6. In order to conduct a more in-depth study of issues relating to transparency and confidence-building measures and the preparation of recommendations for further work in this area, it would be useful to establish a group of governmental experts with the appropriate mandate.

7. The proposals of the Russian Federation in relation to possible transparency and confidence-building measures which are both relevant and forward-looking are set out below. This list is not exhaustive in nature but could, in our opinion, serve as a basis for further discussion.

8. Possible transparency and confidence-building measures fall into several categories:

– Measures aimed at enhancing the transparency of outer space programmes;

– Measures aimed at expanding the information available on outer space objects in orbit;

– Measures related to the rules of conduct for outer space activities.

9. Such measures may be carried out in various ways, including exchange of information, familiarization visits, notifications, consultations and thematic workshops:

(a) Exchange of information on:

(i) The main directions of States' outer space policy;

(ii) Major outer space research and use programmes;

(iii) Orbital parameters of outer space objects;

(b) Familiarization visits:

(i) Expert visits, including visits to space launch sites, flight command and control centres and other facilities of outer space infrastructure;

(ii) Invitation of observers to launches of spacecraft;

(iii) Demonstrations of rocket and space technologies;

(c) Notification of:

(i) Planned spacecraft launches;

(ii) Scheduled spacecraft manoeuvres which could result in dangerous proximity to spacecraft of other States;

(iii) The beginning of descent from orbit of unguided space objects and the predicted impact areas on Earth;

(iv) The return from orbit into the atmosphere of a guided spacecraft;

(v) The return of a spacecraft with a nuclear source of power on board, in the case of malfunction and danger of radioactive materials descending to Earth;

(d) Consultations:

(i) To clarify the information provided on outer space research and use programmes;

(ii) On ambiguous situations, as well as on other issues of concern;

(iii) To discuss the implementation of agreed transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(e) Thematic workshops on various outer space research and use issues, organized on a bilateral or multilateral basis, with the participation of scientists, diplomats, military and technical experts.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[14 May 2007]

1. In the view of Ukraine, States must unswervingly comply with the provisions of the international agreements to which they are parties, namely:

- the basic United Nations treaties on outer space (particularly taking account of the provisions of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, of 27 January 1967; and article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, of 14 January 1975);
- the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, of 24 September 1996;
- the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, of 5 August 1963.

2. Ukraine welcomes and supports the work of the multilateral non-proliferation regimes (the Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, and the Wassanaar Arrangement) and considers that the member States of these regimes must adhere to the provisions of their governing instruments in order to ensure transparency and increase confidence.

3. Ukraine proposes that the information from the annual declarations providing an outline of the policies of the States subscribing to the Hague Code of Conduct with respect to ballistic missile programmes and space launch vehicle programmes be used in order to draw up an annual generalized report to the Secretary-General.

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Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/81, the General Assembly called upon Member States, inter alia, to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to pursue ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures, set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session, through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the General Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party. The Assembly also encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. A note verbale was sent on 23 February 2007 to all Member States requesting their views. To date, replies from the Governments of Albania, Chile, China, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Sierra Leone and the Syrian Arab Republic have been received and are reproduced in part II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Albania

[Original: English]
[26 March 2007]

1. The 56 States (of which Albania is one) which are members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have unanimously agreed upon a number of important confidence-building measures to increase security in the regional and subregional context.

2. At the Istanbul Summit in 1999, further military agreements were made, which are contained in the Vienna Document 1999. The Vienna Document regulates yearly information exchanges on defence planning, land and air forces and sizable military exercises, inter alia. To verify that the information exchanged is correct, the OSCE member States carry out evaluation visits and inspection of specified areas. In the last year, Albania has carried out evaluation visits and has received such inspection and evaluation visits yearly.

3. According to the OSCE agreement on global information, information is exchanged on a yearly basis, in addition to information exchange requirements contained in the Vienna Document 1999, also covering maritime forces and forces stationed abroad.

4. The OSCE Code of Conduct On Politico — Military Aspects of Security is intended to guide the member States in issues regarding the politico-military aspects of individual and collective security. The Code arises from the common values

within the OSCE and its participating States and gives expression to a State responsibility towards its own people and other States.

5. Another important OSCE agreement reached is the OSCE Document or Small Arms and Light Weapons. It sets out concrete norms, principles and measures to reduce the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons. Participating States, Albania among them, have exchanged information on imports, exports, legislation on State control over arms transfer, etc.

6. Albania contributed to all of these agreements, providing all information required in a timely and correct manner.

7. In addition, based on chapter 10 of the Vienna Document 1999, on regional measures, Albania has steadily increased the bilateral agreements it has on the confidence- and security-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

8. Albania aspires to ensure its basic security interests through active preventive diplomacy and enhanced cooperation with neighbouring countries and countries in the same region. Albania actively participates in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. It also participates in other regional initiatives such as the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial and the Adriatic Chart, considering such activity a contribution to security in the region and at large.

9. The goal of Albania is to cooperate peacefully and contribute to security along with its neighbours in the region and with NATO partner countries through such actions as multinational training activities and peace support operations. There are contributions to regional confidence-building and transparency through openness regarding the missions and structure of Albania's military and they thus advance the goals of arms control agreements.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2007]

1. The implementation of confidence- and security-building measures has helped to strengthen military relations and to reduce tensions and the potential for conflict between States, and has fostered cooperation and trust among the democratic States of the hemisphere. Such measures clearly represent a concrete and effective contribution to regional and global peace and security. In the Americas, they have also helped to strengthen democracy and to promote transparency, dialogue and confidence.

2. Chile has contributed to the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures through a variety of initiatives. Examples include the regional meetings held in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) (in El Salvador in 1995 and in Santiago in 1998) and the meeting of experts held in Miami in 2003; the publication of two defence white papers; the study "A common standardized methodology for the measurement of defence spending" in Chile and Argentina, carried out in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (a similar study is currently being conducted with Peru); Chile's regular reports to the United Nations Register of Conventional

Arms and the United Nations instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures; and the report submitted pursuant to Chile's obligations under the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

3. Chile believes that it is important to implement second-generation confidence- and security-building measures. It supports the efforts of the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security, which have resulted in the institution of the Forum on Confidence- and Security-building Measures. The Forum has been convened twice in Washington, D.C., in April 2005 and November 2006.

4. In 1999 the Latin American and Caribbean countries took a decisive step towards increasing transparency in weapons acquisitions by adopting a legally binding instrument: the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions. The Convention's objective is to "contribute more fully to regional openness and transparency in the acquisition of conventional weapons by exchanging information regarding such acquisitions, for the purpose of promoting confidence among States in the Americas".

5. In Chile's view, the applicability of this Convention has a dimension that goes beyond the Latin American and Caribbean region, since, under article V of this instrument, any State that is not a member of OAS may contribute to the objective of the Convention by providing information annually to the depositary (the OAS General Secretariat) on its exports of conventional weapons to the States parties to the Convention. To date, no State not a member of OAS has done so. This is therefore a promising area that could be explored with States Members of the United Nations that are interested in cooperating in this regard.

6. Also noteworthy is the draft resolution submitted by Chile and Canada to the OAS General Assembly at its June 2007 session. The draft, which enjoys consensus among the delegations, is aimed at promoting the universal application of this Convention. Chile and Canada are the only countries in the region that have complied with the provisions of this international instrument by submitting reports on weapons acquisitions to the OAS General Secretariat.

China

[Original: English]
[15 May 2007]

Views of the Chinese Government on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

1. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. China believes that the purpose of confidence-building measures is to promote confidence, decrease misunderstanding, prevent conflicts and maintain stability. Enhancement of the international environment, maintenance of international strategic balance and stability and the provision of undiminished security for all countries are the prerequisites and bases for confidence-building measures. Confidence-building measures should be established by the relevant countries and regions on a voluntary basis taking into account different regions and situations in a phased manner.

2. China has always been committed to promoting cooperation in regional disarmament and confidence-building measures. In 1994, China and the Russian Federation signed the Agreement on the Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities. In 1993, 1995 and 2005, China signed a series of agreements with India on confidence-building measures in the military field along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India border areas. In 1996 and 1997, China signed agreements on confidence-building in the military field and mutual reduction of military forces along the border areas with the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In 2002, China signed with ASEAN the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea. China has also worked with the relevant countries and made a series of active efforts in exploring confidence-building measures within such frameworks as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, which have greatly contributed to the enhancement of regional peace and stability.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[1 May 2007]

Subject: Information regarding the position of Lebanon vis-à-vis confidence-building

The Ministry of National Defence notes that Lebanon supports all international confidence-building measures and agreements, the maintenance of military balance, and efforts to combat the unrestrained proliferation of various types of weapons in the region and the world, because of the grave threat it poses at the global, regional and subregional levels. Lebanon also wishes to reaffirm its adherence to international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principles of the sovereign equality of States and regional integrity. The primary obstacle facing Lebanon in confidence-building at the regional and subregional levels is Israel, which continues to violate international laws and standards and possesses weapons of mass destruction. Those weapons pose a constant threat at the regional and subregional levels.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2007]

Measures taken by Mexico in accordance with paragraphs 3-8 of General Assembly resolution 61/81 of 6 December 2006, "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context"

1. Mexico supports and contributes to the implementation of confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context by complying with the international treaties it has signed with respect to weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms.

2. In this connection, pursuant to the relevant General Assembly resolutions, Mexico submits reports on the measures taken at the national level in various areas: (a) objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures; (b) the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects; (c) problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus; (d) confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms; (e) conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels; (f) implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction; (g) towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms; and (h) transparency in armaments.

3. Mexico supports and continues to promote, in the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and other major disarmament forums, confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. It also supports the development of a regional approach by providing voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. In the same vein, Mexico promotes the adoption of resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the implementation of measures to strengthen international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

5. The Security Council's mandate is to maintain international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations. While the Security Council's work is most closely identified with the peacekeeping operations carried out under Chapter VII of the Charter, the decisions taken on the basis of Article 33 are perhaps even more important.

6. Article 33 of the Charter elaborates on the principle contained in Article 2, paragraph 3, and refers to the Council's authority to call upon the States parties to a dispute to resort to any of the means of pacific settlement of disputes available under international law. Thus, it is under Article 33 that the Council exercises its preventive function.

7. Considering that the Council's prime objective is to maintain peace and security, prevention is crucial for the discharge of its duties. In the view of Elizabeth Cousens, conflict prevention "potentially relates to nearly the full range of goods pursued by the UN system — including good governance, socio-economic development, respect for human rights, and the rule of law — whose respective causal relationships to armed conflict remain contested".[1]

8. The Government of Mexico firmly believes that it is necessary to promote the settlement of disputes between States by the means referred to in Article 33 so as to obviate the need for action under Chapter VII of the Charter.

9. In addition, the strengthening of dispute settlement by the means referred to in Article 33 of the Charter will help to strengthen the Declaration on the Prevention

[1] Elizabeth Cousens, "Conflict Prevention", *The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*, David Malone, ed. (Colorado, United States, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004), p. 101.

and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, contained in General Assembly resolution 43/51.[2] The Declaration's provisions serve as implementing regulations for Article 33, as they give the Security Council the primary role in the prevention of conflict and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

10. Dispute settlement under Article 33 is directly related to the issue of the rule of law at the international level. This issue is the subject of separate discussions in the General Assembly's Sixth Committee, in which the Government of Mexico expressed the view that, among other things, the "rule of law was strengthened not only when disputes between States were referred to the various international courts, but also when the judgements of those courts were complied with. For that purpose, it was important to promote acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, and the inclusion in international treaties of provisions for the referral to the Court, or to another tribunal, of any disputes which might arise from the application or interpretation of the treaties".[3]

Poland

[Original: English]
[2 May 2007]

1. Poland's policy on conventional arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures plays an important role in the overall security policy of the country. It is also closely linked to the arms control policy of the institutions and organizations to which Poland belongs: NATO and the European Union.

2. Poland is party to several multilateral agreements related to conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures that have been negotiated and implemented under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies, The Vienna Document 1999 of the negotiation on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and other documents.

Additional bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures concluded by Poland with Ukraine and Belarus

3. The main concept behind the additional bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures, contained in the Chapter 10 of the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, is to expand already existing confidence- and security-building measures all across Europe.

4. Both documents agree to the additional exchange of military information, the implementation of additional systems of verification (inspections and evaluation visits), additional observation of certain military activities, the introduction of new

[2] General Assembly resolution 43/51 of 5 December 1988.

[3] Statement made by the delegation of Mexico at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 80, "The rule of law at the national and international levels" (A/C.6/61/SR.7, para. 19).

ways to obtain clarifications on military activities and the establishment of regular meetings at the level of the verification units of the States involved.

5. The agreement on additional confidence- and security-building measures with Ukraine was signed by the Ministers of National Defence of both States in November 2004. It entered into force on 30 November 2004. Practical implementation started in 2005.

The Belarusian authorities issued an invitation to participate in bilateral talks on additional confidence- and security-building measures in July 2001. Following several rounds of consultations, the text was adopted. The missions to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the two States exchanged notes and informed other OSCE participating States of their activities. The bilateral agreement entered into force on 20 July 2004. However, the heads of the verification units decided to start practical cooperation in 2005.

Implementation to date

6. There have been no problems with the overall implementation of both agreements. It should be noted that there has been a decrease in the role of provisions for the notification and observation of military activities in the zone of application, due to the fact that it seems unlikely that in future any activity subject to notification will be conducted in the border zone, as specified in both agreements. There is already a high degree of confidence and stability in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Due to the fact that the subjects of verification are only the military units in the zone of application (about 80 kilometres in the border regions), the same units are visited every year. There are plans to include in the inspection teams and escort teams representatives of the units from the border regions of Poland so as to enable them to expand transborder cooperation in the spirit of the Vienna Document (para. 30.1.2).

Both agreements have been important to confirm the will of the neighbouring States to expand cooperation in the military sphere. Polish membership in the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union served as an additional impulse to conclude such agreements to show the neighbours that stay outside the two organizations that Poland intends to continue and even to intensify our partner ties with them.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]
[15 June 2007]

1. Sierra Leone once again demonstrated its commitment to the promotion of friendly relations and good neighbourliness among States by co-sponsoring General Assembly resolution 61/81. Aware of the fact that the areas of the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States have experienced prolonged armed conflict, the Government of Sierra Leone continues to pursue sustained consultations, dialogue and other means of enhancing peace and security among the countries of the subregion, in particular the Mano River Union.

2. The following are some of the important initiatives and confidence-building measures at the governmental, community and civil society levels which have

contributed to the consolidation or maintenance of peace and stability in the West African subregion in the past several months.

3. President Kabbah participated in the celebration of the 159th anniversary of independence in Liberia last July and assured the Government and people of Liberia that Sierra Leone was giving them the best anniversary gift possible, a pledge that Sierra Leoneans would not only regard Liberians as neighbours but also treat them as members of the same extended family. President Kabbah took note of the pledge made by President Johnson-Sirleaf that under her administration no inch of Liberian soil would be used to conspire or perpetuate aggression against her sister republics to the west and north of Liberia.

4. One of the results of the 2005 unification crusade of the Kissy people in the three border areas of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia was the recent meeting hosted by parliamentarians and chiefs and elders of the Kissy people as a conflict prevention initiative. The recent Makona River Kissy Union Agricultural Show and Trade Fair held in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone attracted border community participation and thus enhanced the objectives of peace and good neighbourliness along the borders of the three countries.

5. Earlier in the year, President Kabbah played an active good offices role in easing tension in neighbouring Guinea. The new prime minister of Guinea, Mr. Lansana Kouyate, described that role as timely, and added that the calm that now prevailed in his country following the disturbances was due largely to efforts of the president of Sierra Leone.

6. The presidents of both Sierra Leone and Liberia made several visits to Guinea. In February, they assured the Guinean people of their readiness to collaborate with Guinean authorities in the implementation of the Protocols of the Mano River Union relating to security and cross-border problems in the interest not only of Guinea but also of Liberia and Sierra Leone as well.

7. Following the Mano River security sector reform conference in Conakry last November, member States of the Mano River Union are now reviewing the draft Pact on good neighbourhood, stability and solidarity between the States and peoples of the Union, as is Côte d'Ivoire in its capacity as an associate member. Introduced by Guinea, the proposed Pact is expected to promote and build confidence among the peoples of the Union in such areas as combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, cross-border challenges related to the free movement of persons and goods and promotion of human rights as a means of ensuring peace, consolidation and security in the subregion. It also envisages a provision on the peaceful resolution of conflict.

8. Concerning the issue of the Sierra Leone-Guinea border along the Makona/Moa River, often referred to as the Yenga question, Sierra Leone has reaffirmed its determination and commitment to pursue a friendly and peaceful solution to the issue. At the recent meeting in Conakry, convened to discuss the reactivation of the Mano River Union, security within the subregion and the status of Yenga, the Heads of State of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone considered the report of a technical committee which stated categorically that Yenga belongs to Sierra Leone. The Heads of State confirmed that conclusion. However, it was noted that the documentation consulted during their deliberations revealed some inconsistencies regarding a piece of land 200 metres from the west bank of the

Moa/Makona River which is currently occupied by Guinea. A visit by the vice presidents of Sierra Leone and Liberia and the prime minister of Guinea was expected to shed further light on the problem.

9. The recent reopening of the Mano River Bridge between Sierra Leone and Liberia is considered another major development in the consolidation of peace in the subregion.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[23 May 2007]

1. A regional focal point is to be established within the League of Arab States, with support and partial financing for the first stage coming from the Governments of Germany and Switzerland.

2. A meeting of experts was held in 2004 to develop the framework for the regional focal point.

3. An annual meeting of the focal points should be held. In addition, training courses should be organized and an Arab database and regional information network should be created.

4. Arab States should emphasize their continued commitment to the unified position taken at the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, particularly in relation to international priorities regarding nuclear disarmament (weapons of mass destruction); the right of peoples, particularly those under occupation, to self-determination and self-defence; and addressing the root causes of armed conflicts.

5. Enforcing Israeli compliance with and adherence to resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as the nuclear disarmament of Israel, should be emphasized.